

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DERIVING  
LOGICAL RELATIONS FROM LINGUISTIC  
RELATIONS WITH MULTIPLE RELEVANCE  
RANKING STRATEGIES FOR INFORMATION  
RETRIEVAL**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus are provided for improving the precision of information retrieval systems that use logical form searching techniques. Under one embodiment of the invention, several logical form triples are produced from the user's query and are combined together by restrictive logical operators to generate a compound logical form query. A search is then performed to find documents that meet the requirements set by the compound logical form query. In other embodiments, results generated by a logical form search are intersected with results from a word search to form a more precise set of results. In further embodiments of the invention, three pairs of search results are intersected with each other to form three sets of final results. These final results are then ranked based on the techniques used to form their constituent result pairs.